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Unemployment and Trade Unions. By CYRIL JACKSON. With a preface by VISCOUNT MILNER. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1910. Pp. xi, 91.)

The problem of unemployment has been discussed in England for many years, but until recently the discussion has been desultory and remote from practical politics. Three important publications appearing in 1909 contributed greatly to clarify the subject. Mr. Beveridge's *Unemployment* was an elaborate and convincing presentation of the importance of the problem; Mr. Schloss's *Insurance against Unemployment* was a careful study of the experiments which have been made by state and municipal authorities in unemployment insurance schemes, while the *Report of the Poor Law Commission* afforded ample proof that the establishment of relief works, the only method of dealing with unemployment hitherto used in England, had been an almost unqualified failure. In the same year, the Labour Exchanges Act was passed and the government committed itself to some form of state unemployment insurance.

Mr. Jackson's book is a welcome addition to the literature of unemployment. It is distinctly worth while to have the whole subject dealt with in compact and readable form. In less than a hundred pages, and small pages at that, the author has surveyed the problem of unemployment, the remedies which have been tried, and the remedies now under consideration. Of course, no one of these aspects is fully treated and the reader who desires detailed information concerning any one of them must turn to one of the earlier works.

The chief interest of Mr. Jackson's book, however, is that it puts to the forefront the question as to how far it is practicable to utilize the trade unions as agencies of the state in administering the proposed remedial measures. Mr. Jackson argues that the labor exchanges will be ineffectual unless they can secure the full coöperation of the unions, and shows that the only schemes of unemployment insurance which have proved successful have been those administered by the unions. Something, to be sure, may be done by the raising of the school age, and the introduction of specialized education. Moreover, the government in letting its contracts may help to distribute employment more evenly over the fat and lean years. But any effective attack on the problem of unemployment, in Mr. Jackson's opinion, must include governmental measures which can only be administered by the unions.

This idea is the keynote of the book and is emphasized in the conclusion as well as in a preface contributed by Viscount Milner. Put in concrete form, this proposal means that the government labor exchanges shall furnish house room for the union exchanges and meeting places for the unions, and that the government shall give financial aid to those unions which pay out-of-work benefits.

There are, of course, grave difficulties in the adoption of such a plan. Both Mr. Jackson and Viscount Milner appreciate that such difficulties exist, but believe that the chief obstacle to such an alliance between the government and the unions is the political activity of the unions. If the unions are willing to accept the Osborne decision and to confine themselves to their trade functions, the government may safely use them as agencies for administration. It is certain, however, that such an alliance would mean an enormous increase in the power of the unions. The non-unionist, if he is to share in the full benefits of the labor exchanges and of the subventions made for unemployment insurance, would be forced to join the union. Mr. Jackson does propose that non-unionists might be allowed, if they desire, to become beneficiary members of the unions without joining for trade purposes. Even if this concession could be secured, which from the experience of Norway and Denmark seems improbable, the unions would be much strengthened. This, after all, is the large issue, and should not be obscured by details: Has the time arrived when the union shall become a part of the recognized machinery of government for dealing with industrial problems? If so, the government must deliberately aim at the extension of unionism. But will it not be necessary in that event for the government to regulate other activities of the unions? The issue presented by these proposals is much more fundamental than the question as to the proper remedies for unemployment and is in effect the question as to what should be the relation of the state and the trade unions.

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The Economic Position of Women. Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science in the City of New York. H. R. MUSSEY, editor. Vol. I., No. 1. (New York: Columbia University. 1910. Pp. 193.)

This is an interesting collection of papers, each of which treats